

Listening Ability

Proficiency Target: Intermediate Mid

How well do 2nd Grade Chinese students understand when they listen?

Students understand sentence-length language, which consists of recombinations of learned utterances on a variety of topics. Content pertains primarily to basic personal background and needs, greetings/leave-takings and subject content that the students are learning. Additional content areas include some personal interests and activities, and a greater diversity of instructions and directions. Listening ability not only pertains to spontaneous face-to-face conversations but also to short routine telephone conversations and some deliberate speech, such as simple announcements and reports over the media. Students grasp main ideas and a few details but not consistently.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines—Listening

When students exhibit Intermediate Mid listening proficiency in Chinese, here are some examples of the kinds of things they are able to understand:

the main idea and some details (that occur in present, past and future timeframes)
1. introductions, such as before an event (ex. class play, guests)
2. a short speech or presentation on a familiar topic
3. discussions about age-appropriate matters of importance (ex. attendance, behavior, an upcoming event)
4. an interview with members of the community or with famous people (ex. actors, athletes, singers)
5. a web-based presentation, such as a virtual tour
6. video presentations (ex. commercials, news, educational programs)
7. information from subjects they are studying or have studied in school

Speaking Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice High

How well do 2nd Grade Chinese students speak?

They are able to manage successfully a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation pertains to predictable topics such as basic personal information, basic objects and a limited number of activities, preferences and immediate needs, in addition to the content from subjects they are learning. These speakers respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. When they inquire about something, their questions tend to be formulaic rather than tailor-made to the context.

These speakers are able to express themselves by relying heavily on learned phrases or recombinations of these phrases and what they hear from their speaking partner. Their language, which consists mostly of short and sometimes incomplete sentences in present time, may only partially communicate what it intended. First language may strongly influence pronunciation, as well as vocabulary and syntax, as they attempt to personalize their language. Frequent misunderstandings may arise but, with repetition or rephrasing, sympathetic speaking partners who are used to non-natives can generally understand these speakers.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Speaking

When students exhibit Novice High speaking ability in Chinese, here are examples of the kinds of things they can do with familiar topics:

1. ask and give basic information about people
2. ask and give basic information about places
3. ask and give basic information about their daily routing
4. ask and give basic information events (birthday party, an outing)
5. ask questions to gain new information
6. exchange information with other people about what to do, where to go and when to meet
7. tell what happens at a particular kind of event (birthday party, sports event)

8. tell how to do something (ex. play a game, make food, solve a math problem)
9. give simple directions to a location
9. tell about something learned at school or in the community

Reading Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice Mid

How well do 2nd Grade Chinese students read?

They are able to recognize a limited number of characters in the Chinese writing system. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Reading

When students exhibit Novice Mid reading ability in Chinese, here are some examples of the kinds of things they can read:

1. words on a list from very familiar topics
1. very simple information on familiar topics
2. short, simple descriptions, especially if there are pictures or other supportive visuals

Writing Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice Mid

How well do 2nd Grade Chinese students write?

They copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases and reproduce from memory a modest number of isolated words and phrases in context. Novice-Mid writers exhibit a high degree of accuracy when writing on well-practiced, familiar topics using limited formulaic language. With less familiar topics, there is a marked decrease in accuracy. Errors in spelling may be frequent. They can supply limited information on simple forms and documents and provide other basic biographical information, such as names, address, phone number.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Writing

When students exhibit Novice Mid writing ability in Chinese, here are some examples of the kinds of things they can write:

1. basic personal information (name, address, phone number, birth date)
2. brief descriptions of people or places mostly in list form
3. responses to simple questions
4. simple information related to subject matter content